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Docket No.: 06920/0204370-US0  
(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:  
Hirofumi Ito et al.

Application No.: National Phase of  
PCT/JP2004/016480

Confirmation No.: N/A

Filed: Concurrently Herewith

Art Unit: N/A

For: CATALYST, PREPARATION PROCESS  
THEREFOR, AND PROCESS FOR  
PRODUCING LOWER HYDROCARBON  
USING THE CATALYST (AS AMENDED)

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

**FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

MS PCT  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 3 of this paper.